

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05
EB-08 NSCE-00 SIG-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 HA-05 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00
/120 R

DRAFTED BY IO/IEP:WWOODBURY/IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL:SC
APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES
IO/IEP:DHCOHN
AID/DDA/IIA/IA:KMKAUFMA
EB/IFD/ODF:AWATSON (DRAFT)
NSC:GERB (DRAFT)
NEA:SPERRY
ARA:CFINAN
AF/I:LSHURTLEFF

-----064104 180032Z /62

O R 172356Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG

SUBJECT: NAM CRITICISM ON BASIC HUMAN NEEDS STRATEGY

REFS: A) STATE 169648; B) STATE 178240; C) STATE 178242
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1. DEPARTMENT HAS NOTED THAT, AS REFTTEL A REPORTS,
THE ECONOMIC PORTION OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY
THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU (NACB) WHICH
MET IN HAVANA MAY 15-20 STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE
BASIC HUMAN NEEDS STRATEGY (BHN). NAM OPPOSITION
TO BHN SEEMS TO BE BASED ON THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION

THAT THIS IS A FORM OF PRESSURE BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES ON THE LDCS IN SHAPING DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND POLICIES. THE COMMUNIQUE ASSERTS THAT PRIMARY DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING BHN, RESTS WITH THE LDCS. IT ALSO CHARGES THAT THE BHN WOULD ACCENTUATE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DISTORTIONS AND DIRECT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE NEED TO ESTABLISH THE NIEO.

2. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SIMILAR LANGUAGE MAY BE REPEATED IN THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NAM IN BELGRADE JULY 25-29.

INDIA, YUGOSLAVIA, NIGERIA, GUYANA AND SRI LANKA CONSTITUTED THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMIC PORTIONS OF THE DECLARATION AT HAVANA. IN ADDITION TO THE ISSUES RAISED IN REFTELS B AND C YOU ARE REQUESTED, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU CONSIDER IT INAPPROPRIATE TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- US BELIEVES THE CRITICISM OF THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS STRATEGY IN THE HAVANA NACB COMMUNIQUE, MAY HAVE BEEN BASED ON A MISAPPREHENSION.

-- THE BHN STRATEGY SHOULD NOT BE A NORTH/SOUTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISSUE SINCE IT ORIGINATED IN THE ILO WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE IN JUNE 1976 AS AN LDC INITIATIVE AND THEIR RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IT WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

-- THE BHN IS A "PEOPLE ORIENTED" STRATEGY OF DEVELOPMENT.

-- IT IS NOT ANTI-GROWTH BUT ADDRESSES THE PURPOSES OF GROWTH.

-- THE BHN STRATEGY IS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF LDCS TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE DIRECT RELIEF.

-- BHN DOES NOT DEROGATE FROM THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OR RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENTS TO DETERMINE THEIR DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND POLICIES, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER TO WHICH ALL MEMBERS HAVE SUBSCRIBED.

-- WE BELIEVE THERE IS ENOUGH COMMON GROUND IN THE
LDC'S AND THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES' UNDERSTANDING
OF BHN SO THAT THIS NEED NOT BECOME AN ISSUE
BETWEEN THEM. WE CAN BUILD ON THIS COMMON GROUND.

3. SUBSTANCE OF TALKING POINTS INCLUDED SEPTELS
BELGRADE AND NEW DELHI.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, COMMUNIQUE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE180536
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WWOODBURY/IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL:SC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780293-0773
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780751/aaaabqrt.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 10f0f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 169648, 78 STATE 178240, 78 STATE 178242
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1982057
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAM CRITICISM ON BASIC HUMAN NEEDS STRATEGY
TAGS: PORG, GY
To: GEORGETOWN COLOMBO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/10f0f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014